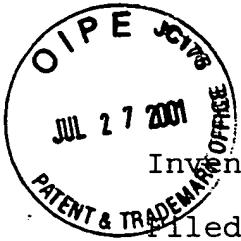


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3/A  
8/20/01

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Inventor : Timmerman et al. )  
 Filed : 06/19/01 )  
 Serial No. : 09/884,709 )  
 For : LATERAL FORCE RESISTING SYSTEM )  
 Examiner : N/A )  
 Art Unit : N/A )

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
 Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Please enter the following amendment to the above referenced application:

In The Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0001] on page 1 with the following rewritten paragraph:

*Paul Backofen*  
 6/1  
 6/1  
 -- [This application is a continuation-in-part of United States patent application Serial No. 09/697,030 filed 10/25/00, which is a continuation of United States patent application Serial No. 09/060,930 filed 4/14/98, now U. S. Patent No. 6,158,184, which claims the priority of United States provisional patent application Serial No. 60/043,835 filed 4/14/97.] --

Respectfully Submitted,

*Paul Backofen*  
 Paul Backofen, Registration No. 42,278

Irell & Manella LLP  
 1800 Avenue of the Stars, Suite 900  
 Los Angeles, CA 90067-4276  
 (310) 277-1010 Voice, (310) 203-7199 Fax  
 pbackofen@irell.com